The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, besides valuable information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt.—Shakespeare.

WHOLE NO. 1261 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1935 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 25, NO. 24

EDITORIALS

Supreme Court "Consistency"

From the day the Supreme Court declared the National Recovery Act unconstitutional and held that the *Federal* Government is without power to enact social-progress legislation concerning wages, hours and work conditions of men and women employed in intrastate industries, self-appointed decision interpreters have undertaken to find in the Court's action the expression of a consistency positive in the Court's constitution.

The fact is the decisions of the Supreme Court are essentially lacking in consistency, if by that word is meant taking a position and sticking to it. Its decisions on the taxing power of Congress illustrate the shifting sands on which the Court stands.

When Congress established the system of National currency it became a necessary part of public policy to abolish the wildcat currency issued by State banks, over which Congress had no direct control. To accomplish this purpose indirectly, Congress enacted a law imposing a tax on State bank currency. The object of the law was not to produce revenue but to tax the objectionable currency out of existence. The law was appealed to the Supreme Court, which ruled that it was a constitutional exercise of the taxing power.

Later, oleomargarine seriously affected the market for dairy butter and became of his changeless interest with the prosperity of millions of farmers. To meet this emergency Congress enacted a law placing a tax on oleomargarine. The major purpose was not to produce revenue but to discourage the manufacture of oleomargarine. Although the act accomplished indirectly what it was believed Congress did not have the power to accomplish by direct legislation, and although its admitted purpose was not to raise revenue but to penalize imitation butter, the Supreme Court, nevertheless, decided that the oleomargarine tax was constitutional.

Reasoning to this end, the Court declared that Congress could not meet the child labor evil by placing a tax on goods in the manufacture of which children under a certain age were employed. Child labor exploiters appealed the law to the Supreme Court, which reversed the position it had taken in the State bank currency and the oleomargarine cases and decided that the law was unconstitutional because the taxing power was used primarily not to raise revenue but to accomplish the humanitarian objective of protecting children from undue industrial exploitation.

That is to say, the Supreme Court declared the Federal tax placed on State bank currency for the purpose of limiting or abolishing it was a constitutional exercise of the taxing power by Congress. Later the Court declared that the Federal tax placed on oleomargarine for the purpose of restricting its marketability in comparison with dairy butter was likewise a constitutional exercise of the taxing power by Congress. But when it came to placing a tax on child labor products for the purpose of freeing children from exploitation by employers who suppressed the instincts of humanity in their search of cheap labor and the pursuit of profit, the Supreme Court held the tax was not permitted by the Federal Constitution.

Other decisions illustrating similar judicial vacillation are well known in the history of the Supreme Court. Consistency may be a jewel, but it does not shine very brilliantly in the opinions of the nation's highest judicial body.

Percentage Sophistry on Child Labor

Supporters of employers who have so little regard for the rights of children as to seek ever larger opportunity to chain them to the wheels of industry and commerce for profit are very adept in producing statistics designed to soothe the conscience of those who might be aroused to action by the encouragement given to child labor exploiters in the Supreme Court decision invalidating the National Recovery Act.

Percentage statistics are among these sophistical devices now trumped up to minimize the child labor evil. The New York Times uses this ruse in an editorial which considers the child labor evil not in child figures but according to a very appealing percentage scheme. The editorial points out that, according to the figures compiled by the U. S. Census Bureau, "of 48,000,000 people gainfully employed in 1930, fewer than 1½ per cent were children under the age of 16." Only 1½ per cent! How infinitesimal it sounds! Granted that the Supreme Court decision did provide for the return of child labor. What does 1½ per cent of the total number gainfully employed amount to any way? Nothing in the world to worry about in that diminutive figure.

But the recital of the actual statistical facts visualizes a different picture than the percentage snapshot presented by the Times. The census of 1930 showed that employers, taking advantage of economic conditions, put 130,000 children under 16 years of age to work in the production of profit for those who own and control industry and employed 80,000 boys and girls 16 and 17 years old in dangerous occupations.

Of course the actual child labor in 1930 was limited to 1½ per cent of the gainfully employed workers is a resort to sophistry to minimize the importance of the child labor evil. On the other hand, the plain statement that 130,000 children under 16 were employed and 50,000 more of tender ages compelled to work at hazardous jobs dramatically visualizes this large army of boys and girls chained to mills and factories when they should be in school and tends to arouse definite opposition to the continuance of this evil.

Percentage statistics like those used by the New York Times are nothing but a smokescreen shot out to conceal the truth about child labor. They undertake to hide the actual facts regarding this social outrage.

Security, Happiness and Greater Wealth Distribution Are Roosevelt's Social Aim

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt at one of his press conferences here condensed into tabloid form the social objectives of his administration.

In response to the following question asked by Robert Cromie, editor of the Vancouver Sun:

"What would you say was the social objective of the Administration?"

The President looked up in surprise and then replied rather ponderously:

"That is a difficult subject to discuss, offhand. It would take an hour or two hours at least.

"The social objective, I should say, remains just what it was, which is to do what any honest government of any country would do; to try to increase the security and the happiness of a large* number of people in all occupations of life and in all parts of the country; to give them more of the good things of life; to give them a greater distribution not only of wealth in the aggrow terms but of wealth in the wider terms; to give them places to go in the summer time—recreation; to give them assurance that they are not going to starve in their old age; to give honest business a chance to go ahead and make a reasonable profit, and to give everyone a chance to earn a living.

"It is a little difficult to define it and I suppose this is a very offhand definition, but unless you go into a long discussion it is hard to make it more definite. And I think, however, that we are getting somewhere toward our objective."

GARMENT TRADE HOURS LENGTHENED, WAGES CUT

Unorganized Employees Were Paid $6.50 for 48-Hour Week When NRA Code Lapsed.

New York, N. Y.—The disastrous effects on underpaid workers of the invalidation of the United States Supreme Court decision that the NRA was unconstitutional, and thereby abolishing fair trade codes with their maximum hours and their minimum wage rates, were well illustrated here in the results of a survey conducted by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union among the unorganized cotton garment employees in the shops supplying the New York area.

The survey showed that in 19 plants affecting more than 2,000 workers in 16 cities garment manufacturing employers had increased the work week as much as 12 hours beyond the 36 hours provided in the code and had cut wages from the previous code minimum of $13 to as low as $6.40.

At the conclusion of a conference consisting of 60 local officials of the Amalgamated from various parts of the country, held in New York at the executive board, Sidney Hillman, president of the union, said that a fund of $1,000,000 would be raised for a drive against manufacturers who try to increase working hours or reduce wages and to organize non-union shops. He declared the union stood pat on the 36-hour week and that although it now controls 83 per cent of the industry the organization program would be vigorously pushed.

LOBBY COMMITTEE SEIZES CHAIN STORE DOCUMENTS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—When Uncle Sam wants fact documentary proof of recalcitrant witness in matters which concern the Government it possesses the machinery to grab them with celerity. This was shown by the action of the special House of Representatives committee investigating alleged lobbying activities of the American Retail Federation, Inc., an organization composed of 160 groups of the largest chain stores in the country.

Representative Patman of Texas, chairman of the special committee, requested Clerk of the House Joseph Gary, secretary and office manager of the Food, Drug and Liquor Industries of North America, Inc., a unit of the Retail Federation to produce all the papers in his office. The clerk complied. The committee thereupon drew up a subpoena for the documents, turned it over to the House Sergeant-at-Arms, who went to the offices of the chain store concern in the National Press Building and grabbed two truck loads of papers.

"We have ten days to go through all these records," Representative Patman said, "and at the end of our search we hope to disclose to the American people that the American Retail Federation, which recently opened offices in Washington, with Col. Henry Herrill, a former White House aide, as managing director, intending to set up a super lobby in Washington."

ROOSEVELT URGES FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION CONTROL

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Expanding the authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission, with broad powers over land, sea and air traffic was recommended by President Roosevelt in a message to Congress. He suggested that the enactment of the omnibus measure be postponed until the next session of Congress, but urged piecemeal consideration of the regulatory bills concerning railroads, buses, aviation and intercoastal and coastwise waterways.

He urged the prompt enactment of the bill for the regulation of highway motor transportation, already passed by the Senate and now before the House of Representatives, and a bill for the regulation of coastwise trade and some of the inland waterways, according to a plan devised by Joseph B. Eastman, Co-ordinator of Transportation.

12 MILLION ILLITERATES, RELIEF BUREAU ESTIMATES

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—According to Aubrey Williams, Assistant Relief Administrator, there were still ten or twelve million persons in the United States in January of this year unable to read or write or do so adequately.

These figures were revealed in connection with the educational program established by the Relief Administration early last year, in which 1,700,000 persons were given elementary education and around 500,000 illiterates taught to read and write.

Tennessee Hosiery Company Cuts Wages; Workers Strike

Maryville, Tenn. (AFLNS).—Members of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers here walked out when officials of the Hosiery Mills announced a wage cut which Edward Callihan, representative of the union, said would reduce the earnings of all operatives below the minimums prescribed in the NRA code for the hosiery industry. Officials of the hosiery company made the reduction after the Supreme Court of the United States declared the Recovery Act unconstitutional.

TEXTILE WORKERS' UNION DEFENDS RIGHT TO PICKET

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Tucapau, S. C.—The Tucapau local of the United Textile Workers of America promptly denounced as false the statement by general manager L. A. Hamer, head of the Tucapau Mills, that the employees who have been on strike since February 21 had used violence against strike-breakers and others.

"The right to strike is a recognized one, and as high and far removed as is the right to work," declared Mr. Hamer in a statement announcing the opening of the mills.

In reply to Mr. Hamer's brainstorm, officials of the Textile Workers' Union issued a statement claiming that several of the members had been summarily discharged. Regarding the charge of violence the union said:

"We have never sanctioned nor condoned violence or vandalism. When the company complains of threats and broken glass we remind them that the courts are open to everyone to prosecute anyone who commits a crime. We resent and deny the insinuation that we have been a party to the breaking of glass.

"The management in saying that the right to strike is fine and the right to work is freer and nobler might also say that speech is also still freer. And when we as employes take occasion to relate our case and our grievances to the public we are told to go back to our jobs we do not believe we are violating the law of God or man."

At the request of Gov. Olin D. Johnson, officials of the company postponed the opening of the mill.

JOBLESS MUST REGISTER WITH U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR RELIEF WORK

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—An executive order issued by President Roosevelt describing rules and regulations for employment under the $4,000,000,000 relief program provides that preference will first be given to unemployed persons who are registered with the United States Employment Service and on public relief rolls in May. The object of the ruling was to remove around 2,500,000 employable persons from relief rolls to work projects, leaving relief to Government reports about 19,000,000 unemployable and dependent persons were on the relief rolls last month.

In order to eliminate the complaint in many places that men and women were rrained from taking temporary jobs through fear of loss of relief, the relief status the terms of the order provided that persons eligible for employment are specifically protected against loss of eligibility through taking temporary employment in private industry or in public service other than the work relief projects.

PLANT REMOVAL THREAT TO VICTIMIZE STRIKERS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Lebanon, Pa.—The determination of a certain group of employers to refuse to the verge of starvation workers who refuse to sell the use of their labor power unless they are paid a decent price for it in the form of wages developed here in connection with the walkout of the employes of a textile, printing and publishing plant.

Rather than yield to the reasonable demands of the workers, officials of the company openly threaten to dismantle the plant and move it from Lebanon. Culmination of this subversive action would mean that 85 men would be permanently deprived of the right to work and that the company's pay roll, amounting to about $60,000 annually, would be bestowed on some lower-wage community.

MICHIGAN PRISON GOODS LAW SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Lansing, Mich.—Governor Fitzgerald signed the Munshaw Bill prohibiting the production of prison-made goods for general sale in Michigan and establishing the State-use system by which prison goods will be produced solely for the use of State institutions.

The measure was supported by the organized labor movement of Michigan, a large number of civic bodies and the National Work Shirt Manufacturers Association.

72,000,000 Pounds of Food Given to N. Y. City Poor

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—The terrible effects imposed on workers and their families by the national lockout which employers have instituted, resulting in 19,000,000 persons living on public relief, are shown by the fact that in New York City alone more than 72,000,000 pounds of Federal surplus foods were distributed during the last year.

Three-quarters of this total was distributed to 214,000 families on home relief, the remainder going to widowed mothers, with their children, who are cared for by 189 welfare agencies and the State Board of Child Welfare.

These figures were revealed in the report made by the Commodities Distribution Division of the Emergency Relief Bureau to Oswald W. Knauth, director, on the occasion of the bureau's first anniversary.

In addition to the 72,000,000 pounds of solid foods, the Emergency Relief Bureau distributed 5,841,000 quarts of fresh milk to families on home relief along with 132,000 tons of coal.

WAGNER LABOR BILL URGED TO PREVENT INDUSTRIAL STRIFE

Revised Text Reported by House Labor Committee Contains Amplified Section 7-A and Provides Adequate Machinery for Its Enforcement.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—With the positive declaration that continued failure of the Government to enforce the right of workers to organize in bona fide unions and bargain collectively by means of their freely chosen representatives without interference from employers would create "a menace to industrial peace that cannot be exaggerated," the House Labor CSommittee urged immediate consideration of the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Bill with certain technical amendments designed to overcome the objections which led the Supreme Court to declare the National Recovery Act unconstitutional.

Betrayed by the Government

The Committee stressed the fact that the "weaknesses" of the NRA included failure to provide adequately for the enforcement of section 7-A and the "loopholes" in the Act which permitted rulings and decisions made by the original National Labor Board and the National Labor Relations Board, which followed the line of the employers' contention, thereby betraying the hopeful outcome of protracted litigation initiated by those employers.

"The result of all this non-enforcement of Section 7-A," the Committee said, "has been to breed a widespread and growing bitterness on the part of the workers who feel, with much justification, that they have been given fair words but betrayed by the Government in the enactment of its promises.

Industrial Peace Menaced

"Time after time employes who have sought to organize in pathetic reliance upon the language of the statute themselves discriminated against by the employer and spurned by the Government for redress have been in vain. If such a situation is allowed to continue uncorrected, it will become a menace to industrial peace that cannot be exaggerated.

"The time for appropriate action by the Congress is at hand, because on June 16, 1935, the National Industrial Recovery Act, and Public Resolution 44, Seventy-third Congress, expire by limitation.

Enforce Section 7-A

"The Congress does not propose to withdraw the benefit or right enacted in Section 7-A. The only honest thing for Congress to do, therefore, is to provide adequate machinery for its enforcement, which is the object of the bill under review.

The revised text of the bill is based directly on the power of Congress to enforce and remove the causes of strikes and other labor disputes on the ground that they materially affect the free flow of commerce among the several States, which specifically brings the act within the terms of the Constitution empowering control of interstate commerce to Congress.

Includes Unfair Labor Practices

The bill retains the original unfair labor practices which prohibit employers from:

Dominating or interfering with the formation or administration of a labor union or contributing financial or other support to it;

Influencing membership in a labor organization through discrimination regarding hire or tenure of employment or terms or conditions of employment.

Discharging or otherwise discriminating against workers who file charges or testify concerning a violation of the act.

Refusing to bargain collectively in accordance with the terms of the act.

As the bill passed the Senate it provided a National Labor Relations Board to administer the measure independent of other Government agencies. The House Committee amended the measure by placing the board in the Department of Labor.

It is understood that the administration forces in the House of Representatives will bring the measure up for prompt consideration.

PWA LOANS GAVE 200,000 RAIL JOBS, ICKES SAYS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Two hundred million dollars loaned to thirty railroad companies by the PWA provided reemployment for 200,000 men on the railroads and in the heavy industries, Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and Public Works Administrator, reported in an announcement that the program was nearing completion.

The railroads used the Federal funds to make badly needed improvements in their roadways and rolling stock and in modernizing and speeding up passenger service. Contracts were let for 1,000 new steam locomotives, 43 Diesel electric, steam and oil-electric streamlined trains. Included in these improvements were contracts for the construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad's line between New York and Washington.

Mr. Ickes declared that as one result of these loans railroad equipment manufacturers, who in 1932 produced less than 4,000 freight cars and two locomotives, received orders in 1934 for 123 locomotives and 14,678 freight cars.

He estimated that the loans enabled the railroad companies to employ about 100,000 employes and that the railroad equipment companies gave employment to a equal number in manufacturing the material for railroad improvements financed by the Government loans.

Stockyards Company Refuses Wage Boost; Employes Strike

Jersey City, N. J. (AFLNS).—Forty livestock handlers in the Jersey City stockyards walked out when Fred A. Cassidy, president of the company, refused their demand for 59½ instead of 49½ cents an hour for a 48-hour week. A August the handlers won an increase to 49½ cents from 44½ cents.

Company officials compelled 12 firemen and the stockyards clerical force to care for cattle received and shipped out.

RAYBURN SPONSORS RAIL PENSION INVESTIGATION

Basis of Probe Is to Determine Whether Retirement System Will "Promote Efficiency and Safety in Interstate Transportation."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Following the recommendation of Attorney General Cummings that there be no legislation on railroad pensions at this session of Congress because of the broad character of the Supreme Court's decision declaring the Railroad Retirement Act unlawful, the Federal Constitution and that a probe of the situation be made, chairman Rayburn of the House Commerce Committee introduced a resolution for the investigation of the merits of pension legislature legislation providing a system of pensions for railroad employes.

The committee, under the resolution, would consist of three Senators, three Representatives and three members named by the President.

Specifically it would make "a thorough investigation of all pertinent facts for the purpose of determining whether any railroad retirement act will be enacted applicable by law to carriers by railroads and interstate commerce will promote efficiency and safety in interstate transportation or will otherwise promote such carriers better to perform its duty to serve the public (having in mind ultimate as well as proximate results), and whether such a system is feasible and in the public interest."

Representative Crosser of Ohio, author of the bill which the Supreme Court held unconstitutional, said he believed there were enough facts available now to proceed with the legislation.

He declared he would insist on hearings for his new pension bill drawn to meet the objections on which the Supreme Court voided the first act.

HEALTH INSURANCE URGED BY ONTARIO PHYSICIANS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Compulsory health insurance for persons with dependents whose salary is below $2,500 annually, and persons without dependents whose salary is below $1,200, was recommended by the recent annual convention of the Ontario medical convention at Fort William, Ont.

The plan set forth that the funds obtained by contributions from insured persons, employers and Provincial and Federal Governments, would be administered by an autonomous, non-political commission entirely independent of the workmen's compensation board. The association believed the plan should be national in scope with each Province a unit.

Govt. Monopoly Drives Oil Companies from Manchukuo

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Reports from Mukden, Manchukuo, carry the information that a number of oil companies are surrendering their properties and leaving the country due to the activities of the government oil monopoly which began operation April 19.

Officials of the Standard Oil Co., the Standard-Vacuum Co., and the Anglo-Dutch Shell Co., said the monopoly "deprived foreign companies of their sales rights" in petroleum products in Manchukuo, and that consequently "they have no alternative but to withdraw from the territories."

Because of the decline in the American oil business in south Manchukuo, due to the monopoly, the Mukden branch of the National City Bank of New York City closed.

Workers Struck Heavy Blow by Supreme Court Decree Voiding NRA, Green Says

Abolition of Codes Gives Free Hand to Low-Wage and Long-Hour Employers—Sweatshops and Cutthroat Competition Return —Child Labor Exploiters No Longer Restrained—Right to Organize Menaced by Destruction of Section 7-A—Eleven Million Jobless Still Locked Out by American Employers.

A. F. of L. Head Believes Constitution Should Be Amended to Prohibit Supreme Court From Invalidating Laws—Enactment Of Labor Relations, Thirty-Hour Week, Coal Stabilization, Social Security and New Recovery Act Bills Urged to Meet Present Emergency.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The prompt enactment by Congress of organized labor's five-point program to meet the crisis in which millions of working men and women were plunged by the Supreme Court's decision declaring the National Recovery Act unconstitutional was strongly urged by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a radio address here over the network of the National Broadcasting Company.

To guard against future judicial edicts blocking the path of social justice, Mr. Green suggested that the Constitution be amended to specifically prohibit the Supreme Court from declaring laws passed by Congress unconstitutional.

The measures included in the five-point program urged by the head of the A. F. of L. were: The Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Bill, a new act to replace the NRA, the Black-Connery Thirty-Hour Week Bill, the Guffey Coal Stabilization Bill and Social Security legislation.

Speaking at the conclusion of the special meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor called to formulate organized labor's legislative policy and program to meet the problems growing out of the lapse of minimum wage, maximum hours, child labor ban and other protective provisions in the codes of fair practice, Mr. Green gave the following analysis of the ill effect of the Supreme Court's decision on the general welfare of the American people with special emphasis to its effect on the workers:

Great Injury to Workers

"Labor is not so much concerned with an economic discussion of the decision of the Supreme Court which held the National Recovery Act invalid as it is with the practical effects of the decision upon the economic and social life of the nation.

"Months have elapsed since the Supreme Court rendered this fateful decision. All classes of people have been accorded an opportunity to appraise the import, meaning and significance of it.

"We know now that the blow strick by the Supreme Court, through its famous decision, did with great speed and most destructive effect upon working people and those dependent upon them.

NRA Saved Nation from Collapse

"At this moment, when we seem to be confronted with a barrier erected by the decision of the Supreme Court, our minds revert to the unfortunate experiences through which the nation passed during the latter part of 1931 and early part of 1932.

"The nation's financial structure had collapsed. Business had sustained a severe shock and the army of unemployed had increased until it reached more than thirteen million. A grave emergency existed. Industrial management confessed its failure to cope with the economic dislocation which had set in and the financiers of the nation were appealing to the Federal Government to save the banks from utter ruin.

Decision Abolishes Fair Practice Codes

"It was out of such a condition of economic distress and suffering that the National Industrial Recovery Act originated. It was designed to save the nation, which was on the brink of disaster, from the evils which recently proposed for the Nation's economic relief.

"Through the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act there were incorporated in all industrial codes of fair competition minimum rates of pay, maximum hours of work, prohibition of child labor and Section 7-A which provided that working men and women might organize free from interference, coercion and intimidation and engage in collective bargaining through representatives of their own choosing.

Sweatshops and Child Labor Return

"As a result of the Court's decision, code making is at an end. The nation has been thrown back upon the economic policies and practices which prevailed in 1930, 1931 and 1932, when more than thirteen million people were unemployed. Child labor was a common practice in those days. Sweat shops prevailed in the sweated industries. Employers were not restrained by any industrial code of fair competition.

"We now revert to the same status which made child labor and the existence of the sweat shop possible.

"The same employers who employed child labor and established the sweat shop own and control industry now. They have not changed. Furthermore, the effect of ruthless competition is the same whenever and wherever practiced. Child labor and the sweat shop are abolished only when they are forbidden by law.

"Employers of labor who employed children and who maintained sweat shops before the National Industrial Recovery Act became effective will do so now when free from legislative restraint.

"The reports which are being received from labor representatives in the cities and industrial sections of the nation show many employers have already begun abandoning code provisions relating to wages, hours, and conditions of employment.

Right to Organize Menaced

"With Section 7-A abolished, working people will be compelled to fight, as never before, for the exercise of their right to organize into independent trade unions of their own choosing. The forgotten worker who was greatly benefited through the establishment of minimum rates of pay will now lose the protection accorded him. Unemployment, which the National Recovery Act was designed to overcome through the establishment of the shorter workday and the shorter work-week, still exists as a grave social and economic problem.

Eleven Million Jobless

"Today there are slightly over eleven unemployed. What can we now do for them? What do those who have hailed the Supreme Court's decision with exclamations of joy and approval propose as a means of overcoming unemployment? What solution and what hope do they offer to these millions of unemployed and their distressed families dependent on them?

"Labor proposes the enactment of a thirty-hour work-week bill with all sincerity, believing that, if enacted into law, it will serve to distribute the great additional work opportunities for the millions who are unemployed. But most of those who oppose the National Industrial Recovery Act rejoice over the Supreme Court's decision are unrelenting in their opposition to the enactment into law of the thirty-hour work-week bill into law.

Social Justice Blocked

"A calm and dispassionate study and review of the Supreme Court's decision forces labor to the inevitable conclusion that the cause of social justice, economic welfare, the protection of children, the promotion of the commonweal has sustained a most damaging blow. In a series of decisions the Supreme Court held the Child Labor Act, the Railroad Retirement Act and the Farm Mortgage Recovery Act, all measures of vital importance to labor, unconstitutional.

Abolish Court's Power to Veto Law

"Legal decisions, however, come, gaining one after another, with all their social implications and economic consequences, which have served to create a widespread sentiment among working people that the time has arrived to amend the Constitutional Amendment which expressly forbids the Supreme Court to declare an Act of Congress unconstitutional.

"I am confident I correctly appraise the state of mind and the attitude of the sentiments of the working people of the nation in stating in their opinion that if the Constitution cannot be interpreted in the light of present-day facts it should be amended so as to suit the needs of existing economic and social conditions.

"It is inconceivable that, in a republic such as ours, the people, with the power of self-government, will remain complacent when advised by the Supreme Court of the United States that the Congress, in its present form, stands as an insurmountable obstacle to social and economic progress.

"The growth of our cities, the development of industry, the changing of our frontiers and the growth of the nation have developed social and economic problems which are national in character, scope and significance."

PWA FUNDS EFFICIENTLY EXPENDED, ICKES CLAIMS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The efficiency and honesty of the expenditure of $4,880,000,000 appropriated by Congress for public works is defended in an article by Secretary of the Interior Ickes appearing in the Review of Reviews.

Discussing "Pork Barrel or PWA," Secretary Ickes said that out of the total spent there was less than a tenth of a fourth of a cent on each dollar of the outlay went for administrative expenses.

He said this record showed the unusual honesty of the expenditure of the original $3,300,000,000 and that it was as efficient "as private business."

He claimed that the Public Works Administration had provided 189,000,000 man-weeks of direct employment on projects and from three to five times as much indirect employment.

Mine Explosion Kills Six

Oroya, Peru.—Because of the lack of proper methods to protect employes, five workers were killed and five injured in a landslide resulting from a dynamite explosion in a copper mine near here where the Cerro del Pasco Copper Company is constructing a hydro-electric plant.

TELEPHONE STRIKE COST CUBAN COMPANY $402,129

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The necessary part which workers perform in the production of wealth appropriated by those who own and control industry is brought into clear spotlight by the annual report of the Cuban Telephone Co., a subsidiary of the International Telephone and Telegraph Co., which showed a net loss for the year of $1,112,141, as compared with $165,857 in 1933.

Of this loss, $402,129 was charged as directly attributable to the refusal of the employes in March, 1934, to continue to sell the use of their labor power to the company unless certain changes were made in regard to wages and work conditions.

The company was adamant in its determination to continue under the old wages and work conditions. As a result the telephone service was disorganized so seriously that on August 8 the Cuban government took over the administration of the concern in the public interest and operated it until October 1.

The refusal of the company to deal with its employes on an equitable basis cost the concern $402,129.